

2006 Grants

The AjA Project

The AjA Project will conduct an eighteen-month exchange program between undeserved immigrant youth in San Diego, California and internally displaced youth in Bogota, Colombia that will utilize participatory photography and media arts to engage and empower young people affected by war and international displacement. Project activities include three Colombian arts professionals traveling to the U.S. to attend training workshops on photography production, conduct workshops with San Diego students on photo interchange, and present an exhibition of photographs and letters from the Colombian students. Three U.S. arts professionals will travel to Colombia and conduct workshops with students on photo interchange, and present two exhibitions of photographs and letters from the San Diego students. U.S. arts professionals will present training workshops for the Colombian participants on the equipment and photography techniques that were employed by the students featured in the exhibition.

For information about the organization, visit <http://www.ajaproject.org>.

Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services (ACCESS)

A division of ACCESS, the Arab American National Museum will conduct a photography arts exchange program with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development in Amman, Jordan. The program will teach photography skills to young people in each country, while fostering discussions about cultural and identity issues, democracy and team building, and the dangers of racism and prejudice. Project activities include four U.S. arts professionals traveling to Amman to develop a photography curriculum with the Jordanian educators, four Jordanian arts professionals traveling to Michigan to evaluate the program, and both sets of participants creating photography exhibitions.

For information about the organization, visit www.accesscommunity.org.

Arts for Change

To help support a film, mural and theater exchange project between youth in East Harlem, New York and in El Alto and Potosi, Bolivia. Project activities will include six educational theater experts from Bolivia traveling to New York to create plays with young people at community centers and after-school programs and six U.S. visual and film artists traveling to Bolivia to work with 190 young people on the creation of murals and short film projects. Additionally, the U.S. project directors will work with the Bolivian partner organizations to create music and/or dance presentations that feature young people that will accompany the public presentations of the murals.

For information about the organization, visit www.artforchange.org.

Film Foundation

To help support an exchange that will utilize classic American and Chinese films to teach the social, historical and cultural significance of films, promote relationships between American and Chinese filmmakers and educators, and train educators on using film to promote cultural understanding. A team of six American filmmakers and educators will screen classic films for audiences in and around Beijing and hold workshops for Chinese educators and filmmakers on teaching young people how to understand films using The Story of Movies teaching model, which has been developed by the Film Foundation. A team of six Chinese filmmakers and educators will visit the U.S. to hold similar screenings of classic Chinese films and conduct workshops for U.S. teachers on how to "read" Chinese films. The Film Foundation will develop lesson plans on the study of Chinese classic films to be included in The Story of Movies curriculum.

For information about the organization, visit <http://www.film-foundation.org>.

Jazz at Lincoln Center

To help support the Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad Program 2006 tours and for selection of 2007 tour musicians. The 2006 tours will include six jazz quartets and three urban music ensembles that will travel to a total of 30-40 countries. Administered by Jazz at Lincoln Center, the tours by American musicians in jazz and urban music styles in countries where there is limited exposure to American culture will include workshops and master classes in addition to concerts.

For information about the organization, visit www.jalc.org

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

To help support the Cultural Visitors and Fellows Mentoring Program, which will provide opportunities for young filmmakers, artists and arts managers from countries with significant Muslim populations to take part in training, mentoring and residency experiences in the United States. The program is designed to strengthen the participants' cultural institutions by building sustainable linkages and relationships with American individuals and institutions. Project activities include a two-to-three week U.S. based training program for twenty-four young foreign artists and arts managers and a 21-day professional development, orientation and mentoring program in the U.S. for fifteen mid-level arts managers.

For information about the organization, visit <http://www.kennedy-center.org>.

My Hero Project, Inc.

The My Hero Project will conduct an exchange program to teach video production and digital arts storytelling techniques to arts educators from Belarus, Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Senegal, and Jordan. Project activities include six foreign arts professionals traveling to the U.S. to participate in workshops on video art production and digital arts design in Los Angeles. Also, eight U.S. arts professionals will conduct workshops abroad with their foreign partners to create joint and independent online documentaries. Additionally, the U.S. arts professionals will travel to these countries a second time to conduct follow-up visits and to present local screenings of the documentaries.

For information about the organization, visit www.myhero.com.

Pegasus Players

To help support a theater arts exchange program for underserved young people in the U.S., Jordan and Morocco to increase their theater arts and foreign language skills. Project activities include six foreign arts professionals traveling to the U.S., and four U.S. arts professionals traveling to Amman and Casablanca to work together, visit classrooms in local schools, and work with youth to create plays in Arabic and French in Chicago and English in Amman and Casablanca. Participants will then exchange plays and perform each other's works, become the other's audience via the Internet, and compile a curriculum guide that will be published in all three languages.

For information about the organization, visit www.pegasusplayers.org.

Quest: arts for everyone, Inc.

To help support an educational theater exchange project between Quest: arts for everyone's Wings Theater Company and Hong Kong's Theater of Silence. Project activities will include nine actors and arts educators from the U.S. visiting Hong Kong and working with students to present workshops and performances for deaf and hard of hearing students and for the general public. The project will conclude with twelve actors and arts educators from Hong Kong performing and teaching master classes at QuestFest, a visual theater festival with deaf and hearing performers held at Towson University, and participating in workshops/residences at public schools serving deaf students in Baltimore.

For information about the organization, visit <http://www.quest4arts.org>.

The University of Iowa International Writing Program (IWP)

This grant provides support for twelve international writers to attend the 39th Annual IWP Residency from August 26-November 21, 2006. IWP at the University of Iowa introduces talented writers to American life and provides them with time in a university setting for the production of literary work. The program will expand to include a weeklong colloquium overseas in spring 2007 for fifteen writers- 5 U.S. and 10 international, followed by four U.S. writers conducting reading and lecture tours in the Middle East and North Africa.

For information about the organization, visit <http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp>.